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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,503	07/23/2002	Morimitsu Nakamura	9170-US-PA	4862
31561	7590	09/11/2003		3
JIANQ CHYUN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE 7 FLOOR-1, NO. 100 ROOSEVELT ROAD, SECTION 2 TAIPEI, 100 TAIWAN			EXAMINER	
			LAWRENCE JR, FRANK M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
1724				

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/064,503	NAKAMURA ET AL
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Frank M. Lawrence	1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3.) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 .

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Paragraph [0021] should be amended to remove "link" references.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 6 and 7 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 6 is improper because it removes and replaces a limitation from claim 1. This presents the possibility of broadening the claim rather than limiting it. For examination, it is assumed that the second adsorbent is a MgCaA zeolite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the published European Patent Application EP 1092465 A2 (EP '465).
5. EP '465 teaches a system for removing impurities from raw material air used for cryogenic separation, comprising contacting the air with a first activated alumina layer for

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selectively removing water, a second adsorbent layer for removing nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons, and a third layer between the first and second layers for removing carbon dioxide. The second layer comprises an X zeolite that is 0-100% Ca exchanged and 100-0% exchanged with other ions including Group IIA ions other than calcium (e.g. Mg) (see claims 1, 2, paragraph [0020]. The method of fabrication in claim 2 does not patentably distinguish the instant zeolite over a zeolite of the prior art that has been fully exchanged to contain only Ca and Mg ions, for example. An adsorption cylinder for containing the adsorbent layers is an inherent part of the system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '465 in view of Golden et al. (5,919,286).

8. EP '465 discloses all of the limitations of the claims except that the second adsorbent is an A type zeolite with Ca and Mg exchanged ions. Golden et al. ('286) discloses an adsorption process for air to be treated by cryogenic separation, comprising first passing the air through an alumina adsorbent to remove water, than passing the air through a zeolite selected from X-, Y- and A-types to adsorb nitrogen oxides (see abstract, col. 2, lines 37-49). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by substituting any

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suitable zeolite type that is capable of removing nitrogen oxides from air for the X zeolite of EP '465 based on cost and availability issues, as well as the desired level of purity to be obtained.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additional references listed on the PTO-892 form disclose adsorbent systems for removing nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons from air streams.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank M. Lawrence whose telephone number is 703-305-0585. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on 703-308-1261. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

Frank M. Lawrence
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

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Frank Lawrence

9-5-03